REMARKS

Applicant has now had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's comments set forth in the outstanding Office Action. All of the Examiner's objections and rejections are traversed. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Office Action

Claims 1-5, 7-11, 13, 14, 16 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Skarbo, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,108,028, hereinafter referred to as Skarbo).

Claims 6, 12, 15 and 17 stand objected to for depending from a rejected base claim, but are otherwise indicated as allowable.

Summary of the Amendments to the Claims

Claims 6, 12, 15 and 17 have been placed in independent format.

Comments/Arguments

The rejection of claims 1-5, 7-11, 13, 14, 16 and 18 is hereby traversed.

Skarbo is directed to a method of activating and deactivating a screen saver in a video conferencing system 18. Skarbo employs a presence detection subsystem 20 to determine if a user is present at the site of the video conferencing system 18. The presence detection subsystem 20 employs, e.g., motion detectors, audio detectors, room temperature detectors, infrared detectors, or the like to determine if a user is present at the site of the video conferencing system 18. See column 3, lines 14-33. When the presence detection subsystem 20 detects a user's presence, a screen saver process 12 is controlled accordingly via a control subsystem 19 (i.e., the screen saver is deactivated if a user's presence is detected). Alternately, if a user initiates a user input event (e.g., by moving a mouse, entering a key on a keyboard, etc.), the screen saver is deactivated directly by an operating system 10. See column 3, lines 39-43.

In any event, **Skarbo teaches detecting the presence of a user and controlling a screen saver in response thereto**. On the contrary, the present application is directed to sensing or monitoring a state of a screen saver and determining therefrom whether or not a user is present. More abstractly, Skarbo takes as input a presence detection state and outputs a control signal that regulates the state

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of a screen saver, while the present application is directed to taking as input a screen saver state and outputting a signal that indicates the state of a user's presence. The teachings of Skarbo and the present application are in this sense opposite of one another. That is to say, the source of input for Skarbo is more akin to the output of the present application and the output of Skarbo is more akin to the source of input for the present application. In short, Skarbo does not teaching that a user's presence is determined based on the detected state of a screen saver. Rather, Skarbo teaches that the state of a screen saver is controlled based upon detecting the presence of a user.

More specifically, claim 1 calls for detecting screen saver communications, and determining that a user is not present at a workstation when the detected communications are intended to result in screen saver activation, and determining that the user is present at the workstation when the detected communications are intended to result in screen saver deactivation. Claim 7 recites a module having means for performing similar actions. Accordingly, as claimed, user presence determinations are made based upon detecting a screen saver's activation and deactivation. Skarbo fails to expressly teach or fairly suggest the forgoing. Skarbo makes no user presence determination based upon screen saver activation and/or deactivation. Rather, Skarbo discloses controlling a screen saver's activation and/or deactivation based upon the detection of a user's presence. This disclosure simply does not read on the claim language.

Accordingly, claims 1 and 7 define patentably over the prior art, along with claims 2-5 and 8-11 depending therefrom.

Claim 13 calls for a "workstation" including "presence detection means for detecting a user's presence at the workstation from the state of the screen saver." Skarbo discloses no such presence detection means. The only presence detection means Skarbo discloses is the presence detection subsystem **20** which detects a user's presence from motion detectors, audio detectors, room temperature detectors, infrared detectors, etc., and an operating system **10** which detects a user's presence from user input events **14**. None of the presence detection means disclosed by Skarbo detect a user's presence from or based upon the state of the screen saver. Rather, Skarbo teaches controlling the state of the screen saver based upon presence detection obtained from other means.

Accordingly, claim 13 defines patentably over the prior art, along with claims 14, 16 and 18 depending therefrom.
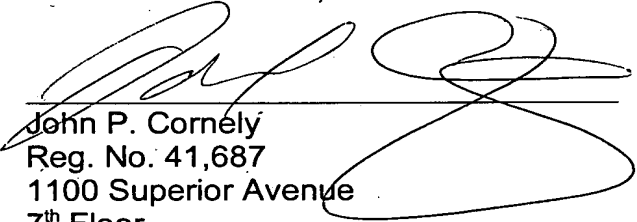
CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims remaining in the application are now in condition for allowance. The foregoing comments do not require unnecessary additional search or examination.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he/she is hereby authorized to telephone the below signed at the listed telephone number.
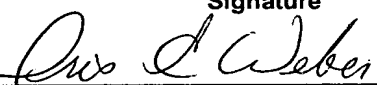
Respectfully submitted,

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